

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A device for feeding a material into a cutting/comminution zone of a cutting machine for organic plant materials, particularly for tobacco, comprising a transporting device which transports wetted tobacco material into the cutting comminution zone and comprises at least one conveyor equipped with at least one transmission belt, characterized in that the transporting device (5) is coupled with a self-supporting bearing structure defined preferably by guides (7), and the working surface of the transmission belt (14) of the main conveyor (5a) is situated at an angle  $\beta$  from  $-10^\circ$  to  $+10^\circ$  relatively to the horizontal direction, and access space (P) being formed between the transporting device (5) and an immovable body (1) of the cutterhead (2) of the cutting machine when in a servicing position.
2. (Original) A device according to claim 1 characterized in that the transporting device (5) has an upper conveyor (5b) situated over the main conveyor (5a).
3. (Original) A device according to claim 2 characterized in that the upper conveyor (5b) is a vibrating plate.
4. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2 characterized in that the main conveyor (5a) and the upper conveyor (5b) are equipped with endless transmission belts (14, 15).
5. (Original) A device according to claim 4 characterized in that the transmission belts (14, 15) are of modular structure.
6. (Original) A device according to claim 4 characterized in that the endless transmission belts (14, 15) are made from a material other than an alloy of non-ferrous metals.
7. (Original) A device according to claim 2 characterized in that the positions of the front roll (17) and the rear roll (19) of the upper conveyor are independently adjusted in predetermined ranges, preferably at least along the vertical axis from zero to a predetermined maximum value.

8. (Original) A device according to claim 2 characterized in that the main conveyor (5a) and the upper conveyor (5b) are situated relative each to other with controlled relative convergence defined by an angle alpha ( $\alpha$ ) towards the outlet of the transported material.

9. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 8 characterized in that vibrating portions (20a, 20b, 20c) are placed under the upper surface of the transmission belt (14) of the main conveyor (5a).

10. (Original) A device according to claim 1 characterized in that the angle beta ( $\beta$ ) is from 0° to 5°.

11. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 10 characterized in that inclination of the angle beta ( $\beta$ ) is along a direction of transportation, towards the outlet.

12. (Original) A device according to claim 1 characterized in that the guides (7) are placed at a height equal at least to the height of the upper conveyor (5b).

13. (Original) A device according to claim 2 characterized in that the upper conveyor (5b) is a vibrating plate, which is moved independently and/or together with the main conveyor (5a).

14. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2 characterized in that a drive of the main conveyor (5a) is placed on the rear roll (18).

15. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2 characterized in that a drive of the main conveyor (5a) is placed on the front roll (16).

16. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 2 ~~or~~ 7 characterized in that a drive of the upper conveyor (5b) is placed on the rear roll (19).

17. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 2 ~~or~~ 7 characterized in that a drive of the upper conveyor (5b) is placed on the front roll (17).

18. (Original) A device according to claim 1 characterized in that the transporting device (5) is joined with the lower knife (12) of the mouthpiece, the edge of which is positioned in a working position at a near to zero distance (a) from a surface of a cylinder defined by edges of the knives (13) of the cutterhead (2).

19. (Original) A device according to claim 1 characterized in that a conveyor receiving the cut material from the cutting/comminution zone is placed between the self-supporting load-bearing structure of the transporting device (5) and the floor.